TRANSISTOR

In 1938, three New Jerseyans. William Bradford Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter H. Brattain, worked in collaboration at Murray Hill. Union County, to invent the transistor.

A transistor is actually a semiconductor triode. It is the electronic component which characterized second generation computers. A solid-state component that neither needs nor dissipates much energy, it was quickly adopted.

The first transistors were made of germanium, which is very sensitive to temperature variations. From 1960 on, transistors have used silicon, which is much more stable. Ever since, semiconductor technology has continually evolved, leading to microelectronics and integrated circuits.

The first computer to use transistors was the SEAC, built by Standard Eastern Automating Computing (United States Institute of Norms).